

Message Text

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73

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 ACDA-19 INT-08

COME-00 FDRE-00 PC-15 USIE-00 AGR-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 EB-11 PM-07

DRC-01 /204 W

----- 114426

O R 011830Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1578

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCAFRED LANGLEY AFB VA IMMEDIATE

12 AF BERTSGROM AFB TX IMMEDIATE

USCINCRED MACDILL AFB FLA IMMEDIATE

834 AIR DIV LITTLE ROCK AFB AR IMMEDIATE

314 TW LITTLE ROCK AFB AR IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE ALCC (EDARYN) RAMSTEIN AFB GER IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 910

AFDROUGHT

LONDON FOR BAAS

PARIS FOR HELMAN

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ROME FOR FODAG

USEC FOR MARTIN
OTTAWA FOR HIGGINS

EO 11652: NA
SUBJECT: USG AIRLIFT IN MAURITANIA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 909

SUMMARY. AFTER FULL REVIEW PRESENT AND POTENTIAL AIRLIFT PROBLEMS MAURITANIA, CONCLUDE WE SHOULD START OPERATION WITH AIRCRAFT BASED NOUAKCHOTT AND MOVE BASE LATER TO DAKAR IF AND WHEN OPERATION HERE PROVES UNFEASIBLE. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE ASAP ETA FIRST C-130, HOPEFULLY NLT OCT 6.

1. MET WITH MINHEALTH FOR TWO-HOUR REVIEW OCT 1 OF ALL POTENTIAL PROBLEMS RELATIVE US AIRLIFT FOR MAURITANIA. MINISTER HAD JUST RETURNED FROM EIGHT-DAY SURVEY OF CONDITIONS IN FIRST AND SECOND REGIONS. SAID FOOD SITUATION REMAINS CRITICAL IN NEMA AND AIOUN, AND IN SHORT SUPPLY THIRD REGION (KIFFA). NOUAKCHOTT-AIOUN STILL IMPASSABLE FOR TRUCK CONVOYS, BUT AIOUN-NEMA TRACK IS USABLE. HE WILL TRUCK SUPPLIES AIOUN TO NEMA IF USAF SURVEY OCT 2 DETERMINES THAT OUR C-130 SHOULD NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPT LAND NEMA (NOUAKCHOTT 905, 907 NOTAL.) MINISTER STRESSED THAT NEED TO AIRLIFT 2,400 TONS IN OCTOBER REMAINS UNCHANGED.

2. AFTER DISCUSSING FUEL SITUATION AND OTHER NATIONS' PRESENT AND POTENTIAL AIRLIFT OPERATIONS IN MAURITANIA (NOUAKCHOTT 909) MINISTER STATED: A. 1,800 TONS IN SACKS AT NOUAKCHOTT PORT WILL BE RESERVED FOR AIRLIFT. FURTHER TONNAGES SCHEDULED ARRIVE BY SEA DURING FIRST HALF OCTOBER. B. MONTH-LONG FAST OF RAMADAN WHICH BEGAN SEPT 30 WILL NOT IMPEDE PERFORMANCE OF LOADING/UNLOADING. EXTRA MANPOWER AVAILABLE IF NEEDED.

3. UNDERLINING HE NOT PRESUMING ADVISE USG ON MOST ADVANTAGEOUS METHOD OF MOUNTING AIRLIFT HIS COUNTRY, MINISTER STATED HE SEES TWO OPTIONS, AND PREFERS FIRST: A) BASE AIRLIFT NOUAKCHOTT, B) BASE AIRLIFT IN DAKAR TO FLY MAURITANIAN STOCKS NOW BEING UNLOADED DIRECT TO KIFFA/AIOUN. FOR GIRM, UNCLASSIFIED

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HE SAID, OPTION A WOULD GREATLY EASE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS AND BETTER ASSURE FUTURE ACCOUNTABILITY OF DISTRIBUTION AS PER PL-480 REQUIREMENTS. IN EVENT USG SHOULD CHOOSE OPTION B, HE IS TODAY ASKING MINFONAFFAIRS TO NEGOTIATE SOONEST WITH GOS WAIVER OF LANDING FEES AND FUEL TAXES AT DAKAR AIRPORT. (I COMMENTED OUR TWIN CONCERNS WERE TO GET AIRLIFT GOING SOONEST AND KEEP IT OPERATIONAL FOR THIRTY DAYS. FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, OUR EVENTUAL DECISION MIGHT BE FOR DAKAR BASE.)

4. MINISTER STATED IF CREW BASED HERE GIRM WILL PICK UP TAB FOR HOTEL ROOMS. (GIRM OFFERED FREE MEALS AS WELL TO GERMAN CREW IF TAKEN AT MILITARY MESS. FRG CHOSE PAY COST OF FEEDING CREW AT HOTEL.) HE UNSURE HE COULD ARRANGE COVER HOTEL EXPENSES IF IN DAKAR.

5. COMMENT. TAKING ALL OF FOREGOING INTO ACCOUNT, AND IN ORDER LAUNCH AIRLIFT SOONEST, RECOMMEND WE START OPERATION FROM HERE ASAP. WHATEVER LIBYANS EVENTUALLY DO IN TERMS REPLACING THEIR PRESENT C-130, IN HAND FUEL STOCKS WILL PERMIT US OPERATE OUT OF NOUAKCHOTT FOR AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEGINNING THIS NEXT WEEKEND. DURING THAT PERIOD ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IN PROGRESS BETWEEN GOS AND GIRM COVERING LANDING FEES AND FUEL TAXES. (PREDICT THAT SEVERAL DAYS WILL BE NEEDED FOR THESE CONTACTS EVEN WITH WHATEVER BACK UP EMBASSY DAKAR MAY BE ABLE GIVE IN HELPING SECURE LUCB WAIVERS FOR GIVO.) ONE WEEK TRIAL OPERATION WOULD ALSO SHOW US WHETHER IT PRACTICABLE CONTINUE BASING LIFT HERE OR IF THERE OTHER PRESENTLY UNFORESEEN COMPLICATIONS. AM NOT PRETENDING OPERATING OUT OF HERE WILL BE EASY BUT INSHALLA IT WILL BE POSSIBLE. ADVISE. MURPHY

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